



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering

Gathering Music My Favorite Things
A Child Is Born

*Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II
Thad Jones*

We invite you to complete the prayer card found in this worship bulletin and to place it in the plate during the sharing of gifts. Information about the prayer cards is printed on the outside back cover of the bulletin.

Welcome

Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Fourth Presbyterian Church welcomes all of God's children into the life of the church regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical limitation, educational background, or economic situation.

Call to Worship “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader 1: God does not come from nowhere, but through a people named Israel, a prophet named Nathan, a king named David, and a descendant of David named Jesus.

Leader 2: God’s arrival in Jesus is announced by the preaching of John the Baptist, through a dream to Joseph, and in a visit by an angel to Mary.

Leader 1: God is not afraid to be involved in the world. In the arrival of Jesus, Joseph makes a hard decision, Mary takes a leap of faith, and the world discovers that the Messiah is a child in a manger.

Leader 2: God speaks in many ways: through dreams, visions, new ideas, and the kicking of a child not yet born. We light our fourth candle, asking that we may hear God’s call in our body, mind, and spirit.

People: **Living Christ, give us faith to trust you, hope to follow you, love to live for you, and wisdom to know you. Amen.**

***Opening Song** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

***Opening Song** “What Child Is This”

Prayer for the Coming of Christmas (*unison*)

We gather in preparation for good news is about to be proclaimed.

We gather in expectation for joy is about to explode in our midst.

**We gather in celebration for we are those people who have said
yes to the manger,**

yes to love enfleshed,

yes to the one incarnate for others,

yes to the wholeness of God.

With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate! Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: As forgiven children of God, let us not be strangers to one another, but sisters and brothers in Christ. Please stand and greet one another with the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

All are invited to stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.

***Song** "Soon and Very Soon"

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Luke 2:1–20

(page 54, N.T.)

Sermon by Adam H. Fronczek

***Song** "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Sealing the Word

Sharing of Gifts

Please place gifts and prayer cards in the plate as it is passed.

Offertory Music "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Richard Storrs Willis

***Doxology**

Lucy Smith

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Sanctus

Lucy Smith

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

The Communion

Communion Music "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

French carol

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

**God, as we await the coming of the Christ child,
we thank you for these your gifts of bread and wine, gifts of life,
gifts of celebration that have kept us strong for the journey of our past
and will keep us strong for the future.
By your peace and your assurance,
send us out into the world to share the story we have heard:
that the Lord is come, and joy is in the world. Amen.**

Sending

***Closing Song** "Joy to the World!"

***Benediction**

Sending Music

A note on inclusive language

Incorporating ancient and contemporary traditions in this service, God will be named corporately in a variety of ways that are gender neutral. This allows for your personal expressions as you are led to name the Holy in ways meaningful to you.

Worship Leaders

Adam H. Fronczek Associate Pastor
Edwin Estevez Pastoral Resident
Greg Ward Alto Sax

Lucy Smith Quartet

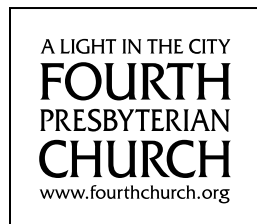
Marcin Fahmy, piano
Bryan Doherty, bass
Marcus Evans, drums

Acknowledgments

Music—"New Doxology" by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2010. All rights reserved. "Gospel Sanctus" by Lucy Smith, copyright © 2011. All rights reserved.

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Church office: 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611.2014; www.fourthchurch.org
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PASTORAL STAFF

Calum I. MacLeod, Executive Associate Pastor and Head of Staff
Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission
Adam H. Fronczek, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Worship
Donna Gray, Minister for Children and Families
Matt Helms, Minister for Children and Families
Hardy H. Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism
Joyce Shin, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life
John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry
Judith L. Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
John H. Boyle, Parish Associate
Edwin Estevez, Pastoral Resident
John Buchanan, Pastor Emeritus

News and Opportunities

News and Resources

Interested in computers and AV? Able to make a regular commitment to helping record worship services at Fourth Church? A rotation of volunteers is needed to help with this important ministry on Sunday mornings and for special services. For details or to volunteer, call Adam Fronczek at 312.640.5398.

Invite friends, neighbors, and colleagues to the Gratz Center Grand Opening on Saturday, January 12 at 11:00 a.m. The open house that will follow will include refreshments from Ditka's.

Be sure to bookmark the Fourth Church website—www.fourthchurch.org—for easy access to the Fourth Church calendar, information about upcoming events, an archive of sermons and prayers, and much more.

Fellowship

Fourth for Bridge will meet on Saturday, January 5 at 7:30 p.m. To RSVP, contact Anne Ellis at 312.573.3369 (aellis@fourthchurch.org).

Enrichment

Books by Women will discuss *Yellow Dirt: An American Story of a Poisoned Land and a People Betrayed* by Judy Pasternak on Tuesday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bumpus Room.

Volunteers and Donations

Current Volunteer Needs

Energetic individuals to share hobbies and activities with Chicago Lights Tutoring students

Members to transcribe recorded oral histories

Tutors for the Chicago Lights Tutoring program on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday nights

Current Donation Needs

Men's winter clothes in larger sizes

Paper grocery bags with handles

For information or to volunteer, call Larry Nicholson at 312.981.3382 or visit www.fourthchurch.org.

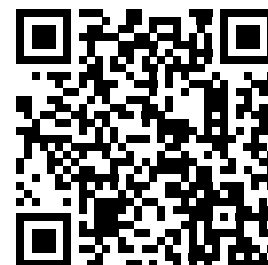
Children, Youth, and Family

Child care on Christmas Eve will be available for infants and toddlers from 3:30 to 7:15 p.m. in the Nursery on the first floor of the Gratz Center.

Mission and Outreach

"Two for Blu" Carnival Getaway drawing tickets are available at www.chicagolights.org. The getaway includes two tickets to Carnival, the annual gala benefiting Chicago Lights, the Counseling Center, and the Center for Life and Learning; an overnight stay for two at the Radisson Blu; and breakfast the next mornin'.

Even if you like us on Facebook, you might be missing some of our fun photos, quotes from pastors, and the latest news from Fourth Church. To ensure you don't miss any posts, go to facebook.com/fourthchurch. Hover over, or point to, the "Like" button under the top photo and make sure that "Show in News Feed" has a checkmark in front of it. And if you haven't "liked" us yet, please do so as another way to stay connected!



Christmas Worship

at Fourth Presbyterian Church



Four Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Monday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant

6:00 p.m. Family Service

Joyce Shin preaching

8:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols

Calum I. MacLeod preaching

11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

Calum I. MacLeod preaching

Christmas Day Service

Tuesday, December 25

11:00 a.m.

Judith L. Watt preaching

A traditional Christmas dinner in

Anderson Hall will be served at 12:15 p.m.

Dinner tickets (seating is limited)

are available at the reception

desk during the week.

New Year's Eve

Taizé Service

Monday, December 31

7:30 p.m. in Buchanan Chapel

During Today's Worship

All are encouraged to use the prayer card, found in this worship bulletin, to offer joys and/or concerns. The cards will be collected during the Sharing of Gifts (simply place the card in the offering plate as it is passed). The prayers will then be incorporated into this afternoon's Prayers of the People.

If you have a prayer you would rather not share during worship, you are invited to complete a prayer card found by one of the prayer boxes in the Narthex, at the back of the Sanctuary, and it will be passed on to Judy Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care.

All, including children, are invited to the Lord's Table to receive Communion, which is served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread (gluten-free bread is available in the paper "cup" within the basket of bread), which they will then dip into the chalice of nonalcoholic grape juice. Worshipers will return to their pews by the side aisles.

The large banners hanging in the middle of the Sanctuary were created by liturgical artist Shawna Bowman during the 4:00 worship service and are artistic representations of our worship experience.

Please turn off all cell phones when in the Sanctuary.

Large-print Bibles and individual listening devices for improved sound are available in the back of the Sanctuary. Worship also can be heard through the "T" setting of hearing aids.

If your infant or small child needs care during the worship service, you may leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. There is also an area in the side aisle where your child can play quietly.

Worship folders, containing quiet activities and a bulletin for children, are available from a greeter.

Printed copies of sermons recently preached at Fourth Church are available in the literature racks outside the South Transept doors (leading to Anderson Hall) and in the Narthex, at the back of the Sanctuary. They are also available at www.fourthchurch.org/sermons/index.html.

To notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion with a Deacon, contact Judy Watt, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, at 312.573.3360 (jwatt@fourthchurch.org).

If You Are New to Fourth Church

Inquirers' Class explores Presbyterian history and beliefs. This one-session class is also a prerequisite for membership and includes a light meal. Attend Monday, January 7 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; or Monday, February 11 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For membership information, contact Hardy Kim, Associate Pastor for Evangelism, at 312.981.3399 (hkim@fourthchurch.org).

Information about opportunities and resources available to you here at Fourth Church is available in the literature racks as you're leaving the church. You can also find information on our website (www.fourthchurch.org), our page on Facebook ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)), and in our weekly email newsletter (send addresses to news@fourthchurch.org).

If you are interested in considering baptism or membership at the 4:00 p.m. service at Fourth Presbyterian Church, please see Adam Fronczek or any pastor involved in the service. Information is available about the Baptism Seminar and Inquirers' Class, which are necessary for preparation. A monthly opportunity to be baptized or join the church at the 4:00 service is available on January 27, February 24, March 24, and April 28.

Sunday parking is available at 900 North Michigan (access from Rush or Walton Street) at the rate of \$8. Validation tickets must be picked up from the 126 E. Chestnut St. reception desk. There is no discounted afternoon parking at the Hancock garage.